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Executive Committee

Sixty-seventh meeting
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Housing and Land Management

Draft decision

Decision approving the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Party on Land Administration under the Committee on Housing and Land Management[1]

1. At its seventy-second session (Geneva, 3-4 October 2011), the Committee on Housing and Land Management recommended that the Executive Committee approve the renewal of the mandate of the Working Party on Land Administration until the end of 2015, with its revised Terms of Reference (ECE/HBP/2011/4).

2. The Executive Committee hereby approves the renewal of the mandate of the Working Party on Land Administration and its terms of reference with further amendments as contained in the Annex, until 31 December 2015.

[1] The mandate and terms of reference mentioned in this decision replace the previous mandate and terms of reference for the Working Party on Land Administration and previous Executive Committee decision related to this mandate and terms of reference. During the review of the 2005 ECE Reform, EXCOM agreed that existing subsidiary bodies of ECE could continue to function without further approval for their extension from EXCOM, until the end of the review process (Item 5 of EXCOM/CONCLU/45). Thus no request for renewal was submitted in the period 2011-2013.

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Annex

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Land Administration

1. The Working Party on Land Administration is mandated until 31 December 2015 to help achieve the objectives and carry out the activities set out below, under the auspices of the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

2. The overall objectives of the Working Party are the promotion and improvement of land administration and land management in the ECE region. The Working Party aims at supporting security of tenure, introducing and improving cadastre and land registry, and developing real estate markets. The members of the Working Party are the national land-administration authorities and related authorities from the member States of ECE.

3. The activities of the Working Party are based on cooperation and the exchange of experience among all countries of the ECE region, through: seminars and workshops organized in ECE member countries; land-administration reviews; participation in the development of country profiles on housing and land management organized by the Committee on Housing and Land Management; publications, and when appropriate, electronic versions, and dissemination of studies and guidelines on specific land-administration and land-management topics; benchmarking and preparation of inventories of land-administration systems in the ECE region; and the provision of policy advice and expert assistance. In particular, the Working Party deals with:

(a) Land Administration

General objectives: Improving the acquisition, registration, storage, maintenance and dissemination of information on real property rights as well as the geometric and physical characteristics of land.

Areas of work: Documentation of ownership rights, leases and mortgages, land cover, land-use and land-use restrictions, geo-referenced addresses; transfer of ownership rights; adjudication of land rights; solving of land disputes; cadastral mapping; database activities; real property valuation; personal data protection; re-use of land-administration public data; pricing of services; cost-recovery requirements; development of professional skills; taxation of land and real properties; monitoring of real estate markets; development of e-services; participation of land-administration authorities in e-government programmes.

(b) Land management

General objectives: Contributing to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of land policy and geo-data policy (including related financial policy issues); promotion of sustainable land management programmes and projects.

Areas of work: Providing advice in support of implementation of geo-spatial data policy; contributing to sustainable development of urban and rural areas with particular focus on land consolidation, the protection of natural resources and the further strengthening of good governance.

4. The Working Party shall periodically review its work plan to ensure that its concrete and results-oriented activities (which are undertaken to achieve the objectives in the areas of work set out above) are coherent with the work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and within the overall objectives of ECE.

5. The Working Party coordinates its concrete and results-oriented activities in close contact with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in related fields, such as the United Nations Programme on Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT), other United Nations regional commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union institutions concerned with land management activities (e.g. the INSPIRE Initiative, the EULIS Project), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the Permanent Committee on Cadastre (PCC), the International Centre of Registration Law (CINDER), the European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information (EUROGI), EuroGeographics and the European Land Registry Association (ELRA).

6. The Working Party cooperates with international financial and donor organizations that fund programmes and projects related to land administration in countries of the ECE region, such as the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank.

7. The Working Party encourages partnership among the public and private sectors and their involvement in managing land resources and capacity-building for sustainable development. It encourages cooperation with educational institutions in order to enhance capacity-building activities.